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MINUTES

OF THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

New River Baptist Association

HELD WITH

GRUBB'S CHAPEL CHURCH, GRAYSON COUNTY, VA.,

August 31st and September 1st and 2d, 1882.

REV. W. C. PARKS.....MODERATOR.
W. H. BLEVINS.....CLERK.

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PROCEEDINGS.

GRUBB'S CHAPEL CHURCH,
Thursday, August 31st, 1882.

The New River Baptist Association convened with Grubb's Chapel church in its twelfth annual meeting Thursday, August 31st, 1882.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder A. Stamey. Text: John 17: 15.

The Association was called to order by the Clerk.

Letters from the different churches were presented, read and names of delegates enrolled, when an opportunity was offered for new churches. Messengers from Laurel church, Smyth county, Va., and New Hope church, Alleghany county, N. C., were received and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator, and the messengers accepted seats in the Association.

On motion, the Association proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk and Treasurer by ballot, brethren Hubble and Spainhouse acting as tellers, which resulted in the election of W. C. Parks, Moderator, and W. H. Blevins, Clerk and Treasurer.

On motion, visiting brethren were invited to seats with us when Elder Hubble, of the Lebanon Association, and Bro. Spainhour, of Brushy Mountain Association and Principal of Oak Hill Academy, accepted seats in the Association.

On motion, the following committees were appointed:

ON RELIGIOUS EXERCISES—The Pastor and delegates of this church with brethren W. G. Young and Stephen Perkins.

ON FINANCE—Robert Young, Sidney Tucker and Albert Blevins.

OF ARRANGEMENTS—W. G. Young, D. C. Jones, F. C. Young and visiting brethren.

ON TIME, PLACE AND PREACHERS FOR NEXT ASSOCIATION—R. L. Shoaf, W. M. Stamper and Elijah Tucker.

On motion, the Clerk read the Constitution and Rules of Decorum.

Committee on Religious Exercises report preaching to-night at early candle light by Elders Blevins and Hubble; to-morrow at 11: 30 a. m., by Elder Vaughn at the stand.

On motion, agreed to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock and spend a half hour in devotional exercise.

On motion, adjourned.

Prayer by Elder Vaughan. Benediction by Elder Stamey.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

Friday, September 1st, 1882.

The Association convened at 9 o'clock a. m. and spent half an hour in devotional exercise conducted by the Moderator.

On motion, then repaired to the stand to transact the business of the Association.

Called the roll of delegates.

On motion, read and received the minutes of yesterday's session.

Called on Committee of Arrangements to report, who reported as follows:

For Friday.

1. Present any new business.
2. Report on Minister's Relief Fund.
3. Report on Home Missions.
4. Report on State Missions.
5. Consider Church Buildings.

For Saturday.

1. Report on Education.
2. Sunday School and Bible Board.
3. Report on Foreign Missions.
4. Call on Committee on Finance.
5. Call on Committee on Time, Place, &c.
6. Appointment of Standing Committees.

On motion, called for Report on Ministers' Relief Fund Board, which was handed in by Bro. Hubble, and after remarks by Bros. Hubble, W. C. Parks, Prof. Spainhour, Elder Stamey and others, the report was adopted.

On motion, called for Report on Home Missions, which was handed in by Bro. F. C. Young and read by the chairman. After remarks by W. C. Parks, Wiley G. Young, Prof. Spainhour and others, the report was adopted and $3.60 paid by the congregation for the support of said Board.

Elder L. D. Vaughan then preached a very feeling and interesting sermon. Text: John 7th chapter and latter clause of 46th verse: "No man ever spake like this man." After the sermon $8.40 were contributed to Bro. Vaughn.

The Association then took a recess of one hour.

Afternoon Session.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

The Moderator then invited Bro. S. M. Dickey, from the Mountain Association, to a seat with us, which was accepted.

Called for Report on State Missions, which was brought forward and read by Bro. L. N. Perkins. After remarks by Bro. L. N. Perkins, Elders L. D. Vaughn, Hubble, Parks and Prof. Spainhour, the report was adopted.

On motion, Prof. Spainhour was appointed to confer with the State Mission Board touching assistant from that Board in this field.

Committee on Religious Exercises reported preaching in the church house to-night by Elders Blackbern and Vaughn at early candle light.

On motion, adjourned.

Prayer by Elder S. M. Dickey. Benediction by the Moderator.

THIRD DAY—Morning Session.

SATURDAY, September 2nd, 1882.

The Association met at 9 o'clock and spent half an hour in devotional exercise conducted by Elder S. Blackbern.

The Association was then called to order for the transaction of business by the Moderator.

Called the roll of delegates.

Read and adopted the minutes of yesterday's session.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us when Elder J. F. Maden, from the Lebanon Association, reported himself and took a seat in the body.

Bro. W. G. Young then offered the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, In our opinion there is great need of active and energetic missionaries in the bounds of our Association; therefore

Resolved, That we, the ministers and delegates of this Association, do make an honest, faithful and energetic effort to raise in contributions a sum sufficient to employ at least one missionary and colporter to ride in the bounds of this Association for the ensuing year.

Resolved, further, That we will strive to obtain a contribution from each member of our respective churches, and that we authorize our Executive Committee to strive to carry out this resolution.

Adopted.

On motion, Bros. R. F. Young and L. D. Vaughn were appointed Trustees of Oak Hill Academy in place of J. L. Sherwood and W. A. Carson who have moved out of this vicinity.

Standing committees were appointed as follows:

On State Missions—L. N. Perkins.
On Foreign Missions—James Eller.
On Sunday School and Bible Board—W. M. Hall.
On Education—R. W. Young.
On Ministers' Relief Fund—W. G. Young.

Bro. R. W. Young then brought forward the Report on Education. After remarks by Prof. Spainhour, the congregation pledged $31 for the purpose of building a music room at Oak Hill Academy and report adopted.

On motion, adjourned for one hour.

Afternoon Session.

The Moderator called the Association to order in the house and announced preaching at the stand by Elder Maden.

Read and adopted the minutes of the morning session.

Bro. Parks brought forward his Report on Sunday School and Bible Board.

On motion, adopted the report on Sunday School and Bible Board and left it open for discussion at 9 o'clock.

Bro. Eller handed in the Report on Foreign Missions and after remarks by Elder Hubble, Prof. Spainhour, Elder Stamey and others, the report was adopted.

Called on Committee on Finance to report, who reported $28.46 for printing Minutes and 60 cents for Ministers' Relief Fund from State Line church.

Committee on Time, Place and Preachers reported as follows: Time: Thursday before the first Sunday in October, 1883. Place: Forest Home, Ashe county, N. C. Preacher; Elder L. D. Vaughn; alternate, W. M. Hall.

On motion, the Association considered the propriety of allowing lemonade, cider and melons sold on Sunday at this Association which was unanimously voted against.

On motion, the following preamble and resolution was adopted:

Whereas, It is an important fact that much of our prosperity in the past is due to the fact that the General Association of Virginia has ever extended to us a helping hand, when it was in their power to do so, and believing that our best interests and highest efficiency will be promoted by a constant and hearty co-operation with the General Association of Virginia, therefore

Resolved, That we adopt the following plan of co-operation with that lodge:

1. That we appoint a committee of one man for each of the six boards of the General Association, viz: State Mission, Foreign Mission, Sunday School and

Bible, Home Mission, Educational, and Ministerial Relief Fund, whose business it shall be to take in hand and prosecute the work, communicate to each by writing to, and otherwise stirring up the churches and brethren, so as, if possible, to secure a collection from each church in the Association to each of the boards of the General Association.

2. That the several committeemen shall submit to this Association at its next meeting, a report of their work done and the results as far as may be practicable, with such other information as may be desirable in connection with the work they have on hand.

3. That these six committeemen representing the six Boards, with the Moderator, shall constitute the Executive Board of this Association, who shall have the oversight of the whole work and confer with the Board of the General Association in regard to appointment, etc., in this body.

4. That we further recommend to the churches that they join in the co-operation by appointing in each church six committeemen, one for each Board, who may bring these several objects before the church and its members and secure a contribution to these several objects.

5. That we recommend the propriety of making our financial year close with the financial year of the General Association of Virginia, which is always the first week in June, so that all credits for the year may be in the minutes of the General Association.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to have as many Minutes printed as he could with the funds in his hands after retaining six dollars for his services.

Resolved, That this Association tender their thanks to the brethren and sisters of this church, also friends who have so kindly entertained us during this session.

Resolved, That we encourage and recommend such religious literature as the *Religious Herald*, *Biblical Recorder*, &c., and ask the brethren of this Association to read them and distribute them amongst the churches as able and efficient Baptist papers.

On motion, adjourned.

Prayer by Bro. Upchurch, and singing "How firm a foundation," and extending to each other the parting hand in token of a pledge to each other to prove faithful to the cause of Christ and to one another.

Thus ended another most harmonious and peaceful session of the New River Baptist Association, in which we hope all the delegation were much interested and the congregation and all present were greatly benefited.

Benediction by Elder Stamy.

W. C. PARKS, MODERATOR.

W. H. BLEVINS, SR., *Clerk.*

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND.

The very idea suggested by the name of this Board commends it to our favorable consideration, and when we learn that the specific object of this enterprise is to provide against the temporal necessities of disabled or deceased ministers and their widowed families we feel at once like giving something for the establishment of a fund to be used in such a noble cause. It has been but a few years since this work was begun, and so well has it been managed that the directors feel confident that in a few years enough will be contributed to constitute a capital the interest of which will supply all the needs of the State. It is needless to urge the importance of this Board upon those who understand its objects, for we are persuaded that every Baptist has a deep concern for the welfare of our ministry and their dependent families. Last year this Board paid out for the relief of eight living ministers and the families of twelve deceased ministers, $805. We know not a more commendable work—a more acceptable service the churches could render to their Lord. According to the New Testament, the gospel is designed to be self-sustaining, and this is to be made a fact by a systematic co-operative effort to fulfill the duty couched in this language, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel shall live of the gospel." We know not how soon some of our preachers may become disabled, or how soon some family shall be left widowed, and so we see that by contributing to this object we not only help others but ourselves also.

D. S. HUBBLE.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

As a committee on this important work, I have canvassed a portion of this Association and urged the importance of contributions to the Home Mission Board to enable them to carry out the grand work in which they are engaged, and have succeeded, as we trust, to some extent, in arousing an interest in this hitherto neglected work, but regret that the contributions are so small, and by some churches wholly neglected, but most devoutly hope that during the incoming year a deeper interest will be taken in the furtherance of this work. The following churches have contributed: Forest Home, $1.40; Fellowship, 80 cents; Grubb's Chapel, $1.15; Baptist Union, 75 cents; Liberty Hill, 33 cents; Young's Chapel, $1.35. Total, $5.78.

Respectfully submitted, F. C. YOUNG.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The State Mission Board of the General Association of Virginia report that during the year just ended they have employed forty-one missionaries, who have preached 3,605 sermons, baptized 459 converts, conducted meetings in which 796 others professed faith in Christ, organized 14 new Sunday Schools and 4 new churches; were engaged in building 13 new houses of worship, 5 of which were completed, and sustained 89 Sunday Schools at their mission stations.

These forty-one missionaries were paid $8,152.30, leaving a balance due them of $4,728.62. Twelve missionaries labored west of the Blue Ridge, but none of them in the bounds of New River Association. We believe the objects of the State Mission Board appeal more directly to the hearts of the people of this Association than any of the Boards of the General Association, and would urge the importance of making a United effort to accomplish something during the present year for State Missions.

L. N. PERKINS,
Committee.

Resolved, That a committee of one be appointed to correspond with the State Mission Board, giving statement in full of our condition and destitution, and see what help can be had from them.

Resolved, That we make an effort to get some good man stationed in our bounds who shall devote his whole time to the work of the ministry.

Adopted the above resolutions, and appointed Prof. Spainhour as the committee.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We are successful in any business just in proportion to the extent we understand the business, and then devote our time and means to accomplish the desired end. It is an evident fact that "knowledge is power."

Seeing that without education it is difficult to contend successfully against the evils of the present day, we would ask our people to educate themselves and especially the young.

From what information can be gathered our people are making some advancement in the cause of education. The schools throughout the State of Virginia are in a prospering condition. We would recommend Richmond College to all young men preparing for the ministry, which is being largely improved for the accommodation of more students.

Twenty-six young men have been aided in this school by the Educational Board of the General Association of Virginia this year, who are preparing themselves for the ministry, with 13 at the seminary at Louisville, Ky.

This Board is dependent upon the churches for help to educate these young ministers.

We are glad to know that many in other sections of the State have given to this cause who have not contributed to this Board previous to this year; though we regret to state that the contributions from the churches composing this body are far from satisfactory.

We have received $1, contributed by the Liberty Hill church.

Why is it that *we* are not impressed with the importance of having an educated ministry? From the fact that our membership, to a very large extent, are uneducated—are not capable of understanding the many responsibilities and duties devolving upon them—have never considered the magnitude of the work assigned them. We would that our people were duly impressed with the injunction: "Go *work* in my vineyard and I will pay thee what is right." When we consider the fact that 23 per cent. of the people of Virginia, and 26 per cent. of North Carolina are unable to read or write, when superstition and infidelity are present with us, we conclude that it is time our pastors, our deacons and every one who professes the name of Christ prepare themselves for earnest, diligent work. "Whatsoever thy hands find to do, do it with thy might." Let us then lend a helping hand to the efforts that are being made in our own institution of learning (Oak Hill) to prepare the rising generation for the responsibilities and duties of life. This school had in attendance last year 152 students. We hope the number will be largely increased the present year and that the time is not far distant when we shall have an earnest, thinking, working people.

R. W. YOUNG.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE BOARD.

The work and object of this Board is to thoroughly acquaint our people with the great importance of a vigorous and earnest effort to establish regular Sunday Schools in connection with every church to be well supplied with the Scriptures of divine truth, with such helps as may aid the teacher and pupil in more fully understanding the word of God. The Sunday School work has been greatly blessed of God as a very potent means of bringing its thousands into the fold of Christ, and with a united and earnest effort may not still grander results be reached in the future than has as yet been accomplished in the past. This Board has already a number of colporteurs in the field doing a good and encouraging work not only in preaching the Gospel in destitute places, but in organizing Sunday Schools and supplying such with the Bible and Testament and other good religious literature, but are now trying to faithfully cultivate and occupy all destitute places. And now, in order to carry out and accomplish these important ends, it is necessary that the churches contribute of their means to the Board liberally to enable them to extend their work in the vast fields of destitution. We much regret that so small an amount has been contributed to the Board, and that only by a few of our churches; but let us determine now that we will make a more vigorous and successful effort in the future.

W. C. PARKS,
Committee.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

To the New River Association:

DEAR BRETHREN: I as your Committee on Foreign Missions report that Forest Home church paid to Foreign Missions $2.73, Liberty Hill church $2.30, Grubb's Chapel $2.05. Making a total of only $7.08.

Very respectfully,

J. ELLER,
Committee on Foreign Missions.

CONTRIBUTIONS, &c.

MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND—Liberty Hill, 33 cents; State Line, 60 cents. Total, 93 cents.

EDUCATIONAL BOARD—Liberty Hill, $1.00.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE BOARD—Forest Home, 50 cents; Grubb's Chapel, $2; Liberty Hill, $1. Total, $3.50.

STATE MISSIONS—Grubb's Chapel, 70 cents; Liberty Hill, 33 cents; Young's Chapel, $3. Total, $4.03.

HOME MISSIONS—Fellowship, 85 cents; Forest Home, $1.40; Liberty Hill, 33 cents; Young's Chapel, $1.35. Total, $3.93.

FOREIGN MISSIONS—Forest Home, $2.73; Grubb's Chapel, 85 cents; Liberty Hill, $2.28. Total, $5.86.

The following churches have restored one each to fellowship: Forest Home, Grubb's Chapel and Young's Chapel. Total, 3.

The following have lost one each by death: Apple Grove, Galena, Liberty Hill and Young's Chapel. Total, 4.

Churches, Pastors and Clerks, and their Post Offices

Churches.	Pastors and their Post Offices.	Clerks and their Post Offices.
Apple Grove	S. Blackbern, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C.	Allen Miller, Weasel, Ashe county, N. C.
Baptist Union	W. C. Parks, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson county, Va	M. D. Holdaway, Flat Ridge, Va.
Fellowship	W. M. Hall, " " " " "	William Calleyhan, Elk Creek, Va.
Forest Home	W. C. Parks, " " " " "	A. H. Eller, Mouth of Buffalo, Ashe county, N. C.
Grubb's Chapel	W. C. Parks, " " " " "	D. H. Lovelace, Bridal Creek, Grayson county, Va.
Galena	Alexander Stamy, Meadow Creek, Va	W. R. Sprinkle, Stephen's Creek, Grayson county, Va.
Hebron	Alexander Stamy, " " "	....., Wolf Glade, Carroll county, Va.
Liberty Hill	J. F. Maden, Holsten Mills, Smyth county, Va.	R. W. Young, Grant, Grayson county, Va.
Laurel	N. M. Blevins, Green Cove, Washington county, Va.	W. Trivette, Green Cove, Washington county, Va.
Landmark	.....	.....
Mt. Pleasant	S. Blackbern, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C.	A. P. Howell, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C.
New Hope	W. M. Hall, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson county, Va.	J. H. Ellis, Prather's Creek, N. C.
Picket's	.....	.....
Pleasant Home	S. Blackbern, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C.	A. Blevins, Bristol, Ashe county, N. C.
Pleasant Grove	L. D. Vaughn, Stephen's Creek, Va.	W. J. Vaughn, Shamrock, Grayson county, Va.
Pine Branch	Milas York, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson county, Va.	A. C. Holdaway, Bridal Creek, Grayson county, Va.
State Line	J. M. Walls, White Top, Va.	W. H. Blevins, Jr., Matney, Johnson county, Tenn.
White Top	S. Blackbern, Walnut Hill, Ashe county, N. C.	F. L. Lewis, Green Cove, Washington county, Va.
Young's Chapel	.....	L. N. Perkins, Mouth of Wilson, Grayson county, Va.

Ordained Ministers.—Galena, 1; Hebron, 1; Mt. Pleasant, 1; Pleasant Grove, 1; Pine Branch, 2; White Top, 1; Young's Chapel, 2. Total, 9.

Licentiates.—Apple Grove, 1; Forest Home, 1; Liberty Hill, 1; Mt. Pleasant, 1; New Hope, 1; Pine Branch, 1; White Top, 1. Total, 7.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches.	*Sabbath of Preaching.	Names of Delegates.	Pastor's Salary.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Excluded.	Dis'd by Letter.	Printing Minutes.	S. S. Teachers and Scholars.	Total Membership
Apple Grove.....	2d	S. Tucker, Elijah Tucker, W. P. Lewis and Allen Miller.....	$ 4 95	..	3	..	..	$1 85	...	30
Baptist Union ...	1st	Stephen Perkins, M. D. Holdaway and J. W. Ross.....	.....	5	..	..	..	1 45	....	127
Fellowship	4th	Wm. Calleyhan and W. M. Stamper.....	16 50	..	1	..	..	1 95	....	60
Forest Home	2d	A. H. Eller and R. L. Shoaf.....	25 25	..	..	1	..	2 50	50	57
Grubb's Chapel...	4th	Jacob Haga, S. Anderson, Samuel Bishop and F. C. Young.....	22 75	9	2	..	..	1 65	....	59
Galena.....	1st	W. R. Sprinkle, Bolin Byrd and L. D. Vaughn.....	8 00	3	..	..	..	1 50	....	69
Hebron	2d	Alexander Stamey.....	.....	..	1	1	1	75	....	19
Liberty Hill.....	3d	R. W. Young and Jesse O. Hix.....	41 00	..	..	2	3	1 43	20	73
Laurel.....	3d	S. Pennington, W. Pennington and S. M. Williams.....	10 40	..	..	..	..	1 50	....	20
Landmark	....	Not represented.....	.....	..	..	..	..	.....	....	28
Mt. Pleasant....	3d	S. Blackbern and W. Blevins...	.....	..	..	6	..	1 25	....	50
New Hope.....	2d	D. C. Jones and Morgan Upchurch.....	.....	..	..	..	..	2 75	80	19
Picket's..... ...	....	Not represented.....	.....	..	..	..	..	.....	....	20
Pleasant Home...	4th	A. Blevins, Henry Gwaltney and Eli Reedy.....	.....	..	..	..	..	1 50	....	44
Pleasant Grove...	4th	John Kirk and James Sexton.....	.....	..	..	2	..	90	35	12
Pine Branch.....	2d	W. Hash, John Ward, Milas York and A. S. Murray.....	8 00	7	..	..	..	93	....	39
State Line.....	4th	T. M. Morgan, W. H. Blevins, M. Gentry and J. L. Gilbert.....	2 70	2	2	..	..	1 50	39	31
White Top.....	1st	N. M. Blevins, A. J. Blevins, Marion Miller and W. H. Blevins, Sr..	16 92	10	1	1	3	3 00	....	81
Young's Chapel..	2d	G. W. & R. Young, L. N. Perkins, J. F. York, Elders Parks & Hall.	30 00	8	3	3	2	3 00	82	74
			$456 47	44	13	16	9	$29 41	306	922

*Church conference for business occurs on Saturday before the Sundays of preaching.

NOTE.—There are two churches not heard from, viz: Landmark and Picket's. Our increase in membership since last Association, exclusive of those churches is seventy.